



WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. OF L., BY INSTRUCTION OF ST. LOUIS CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS.

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

No. 14.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

HEADQUARTERS

801-809 G ST. N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY

SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

DETECTIVES KNOW NO LIMIT

"Third Degree" Applied to Mrs. McManigal by Grand Jury, with the Aid of Burns' Sleuths.

TO BE CHARGED WITH CONTEMPT

Attorneys for the McNamaras Publicly Denounce the Methods Employed and Issue an Open Letter.

Los Angeles, July 8.—It is stated that contempt proceedings will be instituted against Mrs. Orlie E. McManigal for refusing to answer questions before the grand jury. Mrs. McManigal has been before the grand jury and subjected to such a severe ordeal in an effort to make her testify, that she was taken from the grand jury room in a fainting condition and Attorneys Darrow, Scott and Davis took her to the elevator to leave the court house. Burns' detectives tried to enter the elevator but were stopped by Attorney Jos. Scott, who said: "This woman is in care of a doctor. She is ill. You cannot pester her further now. If you try to enter this elevator, it will be over my body". A statement has been signed by Clarence Darrow, Job Harriman, Le Compte Davis and Jos. Scott, attorneys for Mrs. McManigal and the McNamaras, as follows:

"While we recognize that the so-called 'dynamite cases' should be tried in the courts and not in the newspapers, we feel a statement is due the fair-minded citizens of this community from us as attorneys for the defense.

"It is difficult to characterize in temperate language our opinion of the treatment accorded Mrs. McManigal when before the grand jury. Knowing that she was acting under our advice not to testify, for well-known statutory reasons, the District Attorney for the fourth time had her in attendance before the grand jury, and under a subterfuge that he was going to prepare contempt proceedings against her for failing to answer his questions, she was thrust through a side door unwares into the presence of her husband, three of four deputy sheriffs and representatives of Detective Burns.

Then for an hour and a half she was tortured to such a state of mental and bodily extremity that she finally fainted and a physician was called in and had to give her a half-hour's medical treatment before she was in a condition to go home. During all of this time she was at the mercy of these men, masquerading as officers of the law, who were without right of any kind whatsoever to so detain her. A great deal has been said about the horrors of the 'third degree' administered to men charged with a grave offense, but we did not think it possible that such an attempt would be made in California, upon a woman against whom no charge has been made.

"We want to serve notice in this public way on the District Attorney and his horde of private detectives, that Mrs. McManigal will not set foot again in the jury room to be subjected to any further indignity and torture, except by direct order of the court, and it will be our business at the first available opportunity to interrogate the grand jury as to whether they were aware of this outrageous proceeding of the District Attorney, and if so, to challenge the qualifications of such grand jury as being unfitted to sit dispassionately and calmly without prejudice upon charges affecting the defendants in these cases. From one end of the country to the other, from ex-President Roosevelt down, in every shade of public print the cry is 'a fair trial for these men'. A good deal of this is genuine and sincere, but some of it is hypocritical. We appeal, therefore, to the fairness of the citizens of this community who are desirous of seeing the majesty of the law sustained and vindicated, that they condemn this abuse of the constitutional rights of this unfortunate woman."

THE INDIANAPOLIS CONFERENCE

Indianapolis, July 8.—The conference of officials of national and international organizations, held in this city to provide ways and means whereby organized labor could procure sufficient funds to assure the McNamaras a fair and impartial trial, was attended by a large number. The conference discussed all phases of the situation and came to a tentative understanding as to the methods to be employed, and referred the entire matter to a committee comprising officers of the American Federation of Labor and the departments attached thereto. The plans will shortly be put in definite shape and given publicity.

OFF TO BUDAPEST

James Duncan, Elected a Delegate by The American Federation of Labor to the International Secretariat, to Sail Shortly.

Washington, July 8.—James Duncan, delegate to the International Secretariat, will sail on the Steamship Germania at 10 a. m. on July 12th. Mr. Duncan has mapped out quite an itinerary in order to come in personal contact with the representatives of organized labor of Europe. His extensive knowledge of the organized labor movement of this country will undoubtedly prove of inestimable value to the delegates to the convention of which he has been chosen as the American representative.

CASES DISMISSED

Washington, July 8.—A telegraphic report to Washington from Los Angeles states that Bert H. Conner, A. B. Maple and F. Ira Bender, the first two iron workers and the latter president of the local lodge of machinists, who were indicted recently by the grand jury of Los Angeles, charging them with dynamiting the Hall of Records last September, have been dismissed for want of evidence. The detectives are apparently having a tortuous road to travel in fastening guilt upon members of organized labor.

ANOTHER BIG MEETING

Grand Rapids, Mich., July 8.—Secretary Frank Morrison of the American Federation of Labor addressed a large mass meeting in this city on July 4. The meeting was under the auspices of the striking carpenters.

MENACE TO SEAMEN

Washington, July 8.--It is stated that there is a growing disposition on the part of ship owners in various parts of the world to employ Chinese crews. Several British ships touching at American and Canadian ports have recently been furnished with crews from Hongkong, and similar crews have been sent to Europe and Australia. Chinese sailors and firemen receive about \$6 or \$7 gold per month, and stewards \$5 to \$7, while it is stated that the average price paid to other nationalities reaches about \$45 gold per month. The Consular reports state that Chinese can be boarded for about \$4 to \$6 per month, as compared to \$15 to \$18 for other crews. It must be borne in mind that it is also necessary to carry over one-third more Chinese for the same service.

MORE PAY, BETTER CONDITIONS

Vienna, July 8.--The Transport Workers' Union here has been successful in obtaining a maximum wage of 36 crowns a week, with an eight-day holiday yearly after one to five years of service, and a two weeks' holiday after five years of service.

DANISH SEAMEN

Washington, July 8.--The Danish Parliament has passed a bill whereby absent seamen are entitled to participate in the elections for Parliament by power of attorney, or by sending in their votes. This raises the Danish seamen to the level of a full and franchised state citizen.

BOILER CLEANERS WINNING

Antwerp, July 8.--The strike of the boiler cleaners, which has now been on a month, is showing a decided change in favor of the strikers. The small vessel owners, fearing that they are going to be entirely put out of business by the larger firms if they continue hostile toward the men, have recognized the wage tariff of the organization and a large proportion of the men have returned to work.

TRAMWAY INCREASES

Washington, July 8.--The Society of Norwegian Tramway Servants has just been successful in securing a six-year agreement which carries substantial increases, with free uniforms after a stipulated time and ten days' holiday during the present year, and with a two weeks' holiday in all the following years. The concessions granted to the employees practically meet the demands of the organization.

"A LA AMERICANA"

Washington, July 8.--In Belgium there exists an organization known as the General Society of Servants of Telegraphs and Telephones, which issues an official paper. In the last issue it is stated that the Minister under whose jurisdiction this class of labor comes has ordered that the Society should dissolve its present form into groups and each group only to contain the same grade. This order is similar in character to the action of our own Post Office Department officials regarding organizations.

Owner of Los Angeles Express to Start New Morning Paper to Invade Field of Union Buster Otis.

Los Angeles, July 8.—A war has broken out in this city between Harrison Gray Otis, proprietor of the Times, and Edward T. Earle, owner of the Evening Express, as the chief combatants. A climax has been reached in the announcement by Earle that he will establish a one-cent progressive morning newspaper, to be called the Los Angeles Tribune, and issued from the Evening Express plant. Current report has it that the Los Angeles Herald, the morning paper competing (?) with the Times for a morning circulation, is controlled by Gen. Otis.

Mr. Earle has suddenly begun an attack in the columns of The Express upon Otis in relation to the Herald, charging that the General was the owner of the Democratic competitor and that he had perfected a plan to destroy the paper because of its progressive policy, and also for the purpose of turning the Associated Press franchise over to another paper and also turn the Herald over to another individual for the purpose of launching a new reactionary paper to compete with The Express in the evening field. Mr. Earle, it is asserted, has engaged for the Tribune many able men, and offices of the new Tribune have been opened and a corps of men put out to press the campaign for readers and advertisers.

GLOVE WORKERS' UNION

Chicago, July 8.—Secretary-Treasurer Agnes Nestor reports that local unions of glove workers have recently been chartered at San Rafael, Cal., Spokane and Centralia, Wash., and also adds that there is a splendid and increasing demand for the glove workers' label throughout the West.

BIG PROTEST MEETING

St. Louis, July 8.—President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor spoke at Delmar Gardens on July 4 to one of the largest assemblages of people ever held in St. Louis. The meeting was under the auspices of the Central Trades and Labor Union, as a protest against the kidnapping of the McNamara brothers.

BALDWIN LOCOMOTIVE STRIKE

Philadelphia, July 8.—The strike of the 12,000 employes of the Baldwin Locomotive Works at Philadelphia and Eddystone is still in progress. The men involved are showing a splendid spirit of ~~star~~ determination and indications are to the effect that this same feeling will be maintained indefinitely. Organizers from the various crafts involved are giving every assistance possible in the contest. These employes have labored under unsatisfactory and onerous conditions for many years, but, as is the usual result, they finally turned to the trade unions for relief.

VANCOUVER STRIKE

Vancouver, July 8.—The great contest being waged by the building trades against the open shop in this city is being prosecuted with vigor. The unions are firmly united and the independent general contractors are now seeking to enter into an agreement with the building trades. If this is accomplished the contractors' association will receive a hard blow and the finish will be in sight.

FOREIGN WORKMEN ONLY

The Lackawanna Steel Company, in a Private Letter, States in Effect That Foreign Workmen Only Will Be Employed.

Washington, July 8.--The Buffalo Republic, published at Buffalo, N. Y., in its last issue contains the facsimile of a letter written by Fred F. Graham, Secretary of the Lackawanna Steel Company in reply to a letter asking for employment for two men. The letter practically states in so many words that if the two men are foreigners, they can get employment at once, but if not, they are courteously requested to call. Those who have watched the course of the big steel companies of the country realize that it has been the policy pursued in the past to exclude English speaking employes as far as it has been possible. The idea, no doubt, upon which the company bases its activities, is that it is more advantageous to the company to employ men who are unfamiliar with the moral and living standards of this country. It is also to be noted that these companies have made a successful effort in employing foreigners of different nationalities, in order that there may not be free-speaking intercourse between them. The letter above referred to confirms without question the policy which has been adopted.

MEXICANS STRIKE

Washington, July 8.--There are strikes of workmen in Ohihuahua, Mexico, the street car system is completely tied up and many men are idle, the result of a demand for living wages. A strike is also on in the City of Mexico of the street car employes, who are also demanding an increase in wages.

DEMAND INCREASE

Rome, July 8.--A general strike has been inaugurated by the organized railroad employes of Italy. The men are demanding higher wages, and assert that every railroad in the country will immediately be effected if a settlement is not arrived at.

IMMIGRANTS REJECTED

Ottawa, Can., July 8.--During the last fiscal year Canada rejected at dominion ports of entry 17,614 immigrants. The singular feature of the report is the fact that of the rejected immigrants, 15,504 came from the United States, while only 2,210 were rejected at the ocean ports.

AUSTRALIAN SHOE WORKERS

Washington, July 8.--Information comes from Tasmania, Australia, that the shoe manufacturers, after agreeing to meet in conference with the end in view of adjusting the wage scale, suddenly refused to comply. Immediate action was taken by the federal council of the Boot Trade Union, being backed by all the unions in the other Australian states, and as a result a settlement has been effected by an increase in wages of \$1 per week, with apprenticeship system regulated as in the other states.

PIANO WORKERS

Chicago, July 8.—The Piano, Organ and Musical Instrument Workers' International Union has just issued a statement showing that the total benefit paid for the past seven years reaches a grand total of \$238,095.16. This organization pays a \$5.00 per week sick benefit, from \$50.00 to \$300.00 death benefit, as well as a wife death benefit of \$40.00. The strike and lockout benefit is \$7.00 per week. The dues of the organization are 20¢ per week. The showing made is an excellent one.

EXPRESS RATES LOWERED

Washington, July 8.—Practically all of the express companies have reduced very materially their rates and have filed the new schedules with the Interstate Commerce Commission. The growing sentiment for a Parcels Post no doubt is responsible for the lowered rates.

CLOTHING WORKERS HOPEFUL

Cleveland, July 8.—The Clothing Workers on strike in this city have been successful in the past week in getting agreements, and a portion of the membership has returned to work. All indications point to a gratifying end of the strike in the near future, with victory for the strikers.

BLAST FURNACE WORKERS

London, July 8.—It is rumored that unless some satisfactory arrangement is made immediately, three thousand blast furnacemen engaged in West Cumberland are to be thrown out of work. It seems that it pays the company better to sell their pig iron than to convert it into steel rails. Consequently, it has been decided, for the time being, to lay off this large number of men.

WOOLCOMBERS' STRIKE

Bradford, Eng., July 8.—There are at the present time over 12,000 woolcombers on strike in order to force an advance in wages and to fix a minimum standard. Likewise, about 2,500 people have been affected as a result of the strike. There seems to be no prospect of an immediate settlement.

BUSINESS BRISK

London, July 8.—A report issued by the Steam Engine Makers' Society says that trade is now very brisk in the engineering line and that the unemployed percentage of members is much lower than a year ago. If it were not for the fact that the employers are evading an agreement which limits overtime to thirty-two hours per month, the unemployment of the members of the society would be abolished. The report also states that an increase has been secured of one shilling per week at several towns.

REFERENDUM DEFEATED

Boston, July 8.—The bill to establish the initiative and referendum has been defeated by the House of Representatives of the Massachusetts Legislature by a vote of 125 to 75.

BUILDING TRADES STRIKE

Manchester, July 8.—The building tradesmen, over two hundred in number, have quit work on a new building for the Calico Printers' Association. The difficulty arose through the action of a Liverpool firm employing glaziers to do the work of plumbers.

ENDORSE EIGHT HOURS

Amsterdam, July 8.—At the recent convention of the International Congress of Textile Workers, the resolution of the English delegates in favor of an universal eight-hour day in textile factories was enthusiastically and unanimously adopted.

OAR STRIKE ENDS

Differences Between Operating Company and Employes Submitted to a Board of Arbitration.

Pittsburg, Kans., July 8.—Following a strike of four days on the Joplin & Pittsburg Electric Railway, a settlement has been reached. It has been agreed that the questions involving wages, length of contract, outside work, union or open shop, shall be decided by arbitration.

WORKMEN HONORED

London, July 8.—Of the Twenty-eight candidates for the "Diploma in Economics and Political Science," given by Oxford University, twelve of the successful ones were workmen students from Ruskin's College, Oxford. As an additional honor, eight of these twelve have been awarded distinction honors by the examiners.

ENGINEERS GET INCREASE

Cleveland, July 8.—From the general offices of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers it is announced that an increase of 6 per cent in wages has just been secured on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, effective July 1.

BOILER MAKERS GET RAISE

London, July 8.—After a strike of one hour the boilermakers in the Grove Locomotive Works of the London and Northwestern Company, returned to work with an assurance that their claims would be fully considered. The Boilermakers are asking an all-round advance of 6 shillings per week; in other words, equal to that of the Manchester District.

NOVA SCOTIA MINERS

Washington, July 8.—After nearly two years effort on the part of the coal miners at Spring Hill, Nova Scotia, to force a recognition of the miners' organization, the miners have returned to work.

At Springfield, Ill., the tool and die makers reduced their hours from ten to nine without reduction in wages; painters secured increase of 2½¢ per hour after four weeks' strike.

Printers of San Juan, Porto Rico, have secured increase of 50%.

THE DOCTORS' CONCERNED

London, July 8.-- The medical fraternity in Great Britain is much concerned over the new Lloyd-George insurance bill. They have vigorously protested against the provisions which affect their profession. It has been suggested that the approved societies should engage a medical officer, whose duty it would be to give certificates of sickness to members, which would entitle them to sick pay provided under the bill; sick pay having been obtained, the member to have the choice of a doctor and pay the fee himself. Heretofore, it has been quite generally the practice for these societies to employ what is termed a "club" doctor, the society footing the bill.

SCOTTISH RAILWAY STRIKE

Glasgow, July 8.--The organized men on the North-British Railway, employed at Coatbridge and vicinity, have gone on strike for shorter hours and higher wages.

NATIONAL INSURANCE BILL

London, July 8.--At all of the Whitsun meetings of the Friendly Societies the National Insurance Bill was under discussion, and although the tone of these discussions was generally favorable, the details of the measure were systematically criticised.

STATE INSURANCE

Rome, July 8.--A law instituting a national system of insurance is about to go into effect in Italy. All private life insurance companies, whether Italian or foreign, have been compelled to present their registers to appointed officials and the registers then closed. Existing contracts will be recognized, but no further insurance can be made hereafter, as all new business will go to the state.

GERMANY'S NEW BILL

Berlin, July 8.--The Workmen's Insurance Consolidation and Amendment Bill has passed the Reichstag. The final vote on the bill was 232 for to 58 against, the minority being composed of Socialists.

THREATENED STRIKE

Newcastle, Eng., July 8.--The tramway men of Newcastle have many grievances and unless a satisfactory adjustment is soon reached, a strike will take place. The principal difficulty is the long hours required of the men, in some instances they being compelled to work for thirty consecutive hours.

PARTY MOVEMENT DEFEATED

Duluth, Minn., July 8.--The Minnesota State Federation of Labor has just defeated a proposition to launch a state labor party.

Painters of Portland, Ore., secured increase of 20¢ per day.

AGAINST UNIONS SOME MORE

The Post Office Department Still Continues Its Open Antagonism Toward
The American Federation of Labor.

Erie, Pa., July 8.—When the tenth annual convention of the Pennsylvania branch of the National Association of Post Office Clerks was held in this city, First Assistant Postmaster-General Grandfield was present to direct the deliberations of the clerks. The important business transacted by the convention was resolutions adopted endorsing the administration of the national president, thanking him for his address on legislation, and another resolution endorsing Sunday closing of post offices and also thanking Dr. C. P. Grandfield, First Assistant Postmaster-General, for his address. Dr. Grandfield came to the convention to urge the clerks to continue as a mutual admiration society, and his entire address was devoted to arguments discouraging the organization of postal employees on trade union lines. Dr. Grandfield made copious references to editorial expressions clipped from newspapers, in an effort to prove that "Government employees should not be deluded with the idea that they have the same rights as ~~any~~ ordinary citizens".

Referring to the "gag" rule, which prohibits officers and employees of the United States from exercising their prerogatives as American Citizens, Dr. Grandfield said: "One of the objects of this order is to prevent favoritism and political or personal influence rather than merit from controlling promotion. The man who desires to gain promotion on his own merits should certainly uphold this order. No man can truthfully say that the employees of the postal service have been denied the right of petition or that the Postmaster General is not ready at all times to redress grievances, to confer with your officers or to cooperate with you in everything that tends to benefit the service or to improve the conditions of employment". Selah!

MISSOURI IN GOOD SHAPE

Washington, July 8.—In a communication just received from John T. Smith, Secretary-Treasurer of the Missouri State Federation of Labor, it is stated that the movement throughout the state is gaining strength. He has been making a trip over the state, holding meetings in the various cities where there are central bodies, and reports that although the weather has been extremely warm, a splendid attendance has greeted him at every place visited. Among other work performed he organized the Milk Handlers' Union at Columbia, Mo.

HARDWOOD FINISHERS WIN

Philadelphia, July 8.—The hardwood finishers to the number of 300 went on strike a short time ago for an increase in wages to 36¢ per hour. They have just been successful in signing up the last of the recalcitrant employers and all the men returned to work at the wage demanded.

PATTERN MAKERS SUCCESSFUL

Schenectady, N.Y., July 8.—The pattern makers of this city who went on strike a few days ago as a protest against the employment of non-union men, have returned to work, the organization having made a satisfactory settlement by the non-unionists, becoming members of the organization.

SHORT TIME IN COTTON MILLS

London, July 8.--The Cotton Spinners' Association in Great Britain has decided to close down each Saturday for twelve weeks commencing with July 15. It appears that this is a world movement, as about 20 to 25% of the spindles in the south of the United States are now on short time, and will be until the new crop comes in.

BARMEN'S LONG HOURS

Liverpool, July 8.--As a result of agitation of the Barmen's Union of Liverpool, J. S. Healy, the secretary, has been informed by the home secretary during an informal discussion, that a scheme is being prepared whereby a considerable improvement will be made in the barmen's and barmaids' hours. According to the home secretary, it has been decided that these employees are to have one day's rest in seven and also certain holidays. The members of the Labor Party are behind a new bill that will result in relieving this class of workers of their present excessive hours.

FOREIGN NOTES

Miners' representatives of Great Britain have waited on the Miners' National Executive and entered a strong protest against the clause in the Coal Mines Bill which makes it compulsory for colliery winders to pass periodical medical examinations.

The membership of the Associated Blacksmiths and Iron Workers' Society continues to increase.

The June report of the Society of the Amalgamated Tool Makers notes an increase in membership of 1,021 during the past month, and a decrease in the unemployed list, bringing the total number of unemployed down to fifty-six. The reserve funds of the society, with a membership of approximately 5,000, are \$110,000.

The annual demonstration of Yorkshire miners was held recently at Barnsley. Mr. Keir Hardy declared that in about a month's time the whole coal fields of Great Britain would sound the alarm to "down tools" until a living wage was granted to the men on strike in the South Wales coal fields.

Great progress is recorded in the annual report of the Municipal Employees' Association of London and the Provinces. The association has been in existence for seventeen years and has never had a strike, but has gained large increases in wages for its members. Last year the total amount gained without friction was approximately \$175,000. The membership last year was 12,141, with an increase this year of 1,500.

TAYLOR SYSTEM AGAIN

Washington, July 8.--Congressman Wilson, Chairman of the House Labor Committee, will immediately, together with his colleagues, commence an investigation of the "Taylor" system. He states that undoubtedly the first plant to be visited on the tour of inspection will be the South Bethlehem, Pa., Steel plant, where this system has been attempted.

At Carbondale, Pa., teamsters increased wages 25 percent, machinists 10 percent, blacksmiths 20 percent, carpenters 10 percent, bricklayers 10 percent, all without strike.